

Anti-Islam MP in Dutch court, ... pg 2



Enjoy Aruba's 57th carnival

A Tourism Master Plan for Aruba in the Making pg 3

Aruba receives ample coverage in Germany's Diners Club Magazine



ORANJESTAD – Last year Aruba Tourism Authority hosted a group of German reporters who work for the wellknown magazine Diners Club. The magazine has a circulation of 75,000 copies. Aruba received a 4-page coverage with interesting information and colorful pictures. Spots such as Bucuti Beach Resort, Papiamentu Restaurant, Divi links, Tierra de Sol, Spa del Sol and L.G. Smith Steak & Chop House were highly recommended. At the end of the article Odysseas offers readers a very attractive travel package to Aruba. The Aruba Tourism Authority extends its gratitude towards everyone who gave their support in making this trip a successful one. Photos show the coverage Aruba received in Diners Club of Germany

Minister of Public Health intent on improving health care and service



Minister Richard Visser

Just recently a deliberation of grave importance for medical specialists was held where about 30 specialists with fixed AZV salaries were present. The "Arubaanse Vereniging van Specialisten in Dienstverband," (Aruban foundation for specialists) is an entity only for AZV salaried specialists who numbers about 30 medical specialists. Whereas the Association of medical specialists in private practice (not on the AZV payroll), such as VMSA has less members.

A notable observation in recent years is that the interest of the specialists with fixed salaries seems to be much less than that of those in so-called 'private' practice. The medical specialists with fixed salaries are desirous of changing their perceived image. They claim to work very hard and that they contribute in great measure to the improvement of the quality of medical care in the hospital. On the other hand, the medical specialist in 'private' practice only provide medical services and participate only minimally in necessary deliberations regarding quality im-

provement projects. This is why there is the perception that medical specialists with fixed salaries work less, which in essence is not the case.

In the past, medical specialists with fixed salaries served on the Board of Directors of the dr. E. Oduber Hospital (Aruba's local hospital). However, the interest of the hospital and its employees were not always in sync with each other. There is very little transparency with respect to the different employment packages offered to medical specialists with fixed salaries. The association is intent on bringing about more clarification and uniformity in this matter. By organizing themselves as a formal group, the specialists on fixed salaries want more participation in the management of the hospital. This way, according to them, the Board of Directors can make better decisions.

For the minister of public health, Dr. Richard Visser, it is vitally important for our medical specialists to provide the best of service and high quality medical care.

Continued on page 3

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Rio horrified as Carnival preps go up in flames

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AFP) - Rio's famed Carnival due to be held next month was dealt a devastating blow yesterday when a fire destroyed workshops containing some of the floats and thousands of intricate costumes made for the event.

"We are heartbroken," said Jorge Castanheira, president of the League of Samba Schools which puts on the yearly event. "Everything was practically ready for the Carnival."

"A dream has been thrown in the trash. Months of work, and it's all lost," one costume worker, Jose da Silva Junior, lamented to reporters.

Several hours after the blaze gutted part of Samba City, the area dedicated to Rio's Carnival preparations, around 100 firefighters managed to bring the situation under control though black smoke continued to billow over the city.



Members of Grande Rio samba school cry as a fire rages through warehouses of samba schools. (AFP PHOTO)

Officials said that despite the ravages of the fire, Carnival would go ahead as usual, with Rio's spectacular parades of dancers in feathers and multi-million-dollar allegorical floats to take place March 6 and 7.

Although other Carnival parades take place across this country of 193 million people, none comes close to the grandeur and complexity of Rio's event, which unfolds in a special stadium attended by

thousands of ticket-holders and local and foreign VIPs.

The inferno shocked all of Brazil, which ranks Rio's Carnival as its premier display of national pride -- at least as important as top football games. It calls the event the "the biggest show on Earth."

Castanheira said he was not certain workers would be able to rebuild everything that was lost before the popular event.

The cause of the blaze was not known.

Anti-Islam MP in Dutch court, claims 'persecution'

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) - Dutch anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders claimed yesterday he was being persecuted for his views, asking an Amsterdam court to protect free speech and disallow his hate speech trial.

"Citizens who criticise Islam pay a bitter price. They are threatened, persecuted, criminalised," the politician told a panel of judges at a hearing to plan the modalities of his new trial.

"Who speaks the truth is in danger," said the MP who calls Islam "fascist," has likened the Koran to Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and is under 24-hour protection following death threats.

Wilders' trial for inciting hatred against Muslims was interrupted last October when the judges trying him were ordered to step down by a panel of their peers who upheld the politician's bias claims.

No new trial date has been set.

Wilders' lawyer, Bram Moszkowicz, asked the court yesterday for permission to file a so-called preliminary plea to challenge the validity of his prosecution. If successful, it would cancel a new trial.

Wilders, 47, faces five counts of giving offence to Muslims and of inciting hatred against Muslims and people of non-Western immigrant origin, particularly Moroccans.

He told the court yesterday that Islam was a "totalitarian ideology" that could "only yield societies that are backward and pauperised."

"I hope that freedom of expression will triumph," the politician said.

Wilders, whose Party for Freedom gives parliamentary support to a right leaning coalition, risks up to a year in jail or a 7,600-euro fine for comments made in his campaign to "stop the Islamisation of the Netherlands."

Prosecutors, who initially dismissed dozens of complaints against him in June 2008, told the court last October that Wilders' statements, though hurtful, were not criminal, and sought his acquittal.

Appeals judges in January 2009 ordered that Wilders be put on trial as his utterances amounted to "sowing hatred" - compelling an unwilling prosecution to mount a case against him.

Iran envoy summoned over hanged Dutch woman's burial

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) - The Netherlands said yesterday it had summoned Iran's ambassador in The Hague to protest the hushed burial of a Dutch citizen after she was executed by the regime in Tehran.

A foreign ministry spokesman said the Dutch ambassador to Tehran was also being brought back to The Hague for consultations after Zahra Bahrami was buried in the absence of her family who had wished to be present.

"We were taken aback by the manner in which Mrs Bahrami's remains were treated, and we want to protest the lack of respect shown to her family," spokesman Bengt van Loosdrecht told AFP.

The Iranian ambassador, Kazem Gharib Abadi, was

summoned to the Dutch foreign ministry in The Hague, where he met a senior official yesterday morning, said the spokesman.

The Netherlands had also decided to consult its own ambassador, Cees Kole, on the matter. Kole would seek a meeting with Iran's foreign minister and report back in The Hague on Thursday.

Bahrami, a 46-year-old Iranian-born naturalised Dutch citizen, was hanged on January 29 after being convicted of a drugs offence. Tehran prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi said cocaine was found in a search of her home.

She was initially arrested in the aftermath of the widespread protests in 2009 that followed disputed elections in Iran.

Her execution last month prompted the Dutch government to freeze all contact with what it labelled a "barbarous regime".

According to a report on Dutch public radio, which cited an Iranian human rights body, Bahrami was buried on Sunday some 400 kilometers (250 miles) outside Tehran.

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A Tourism Master Plan for Aruba in the mak-

ORANJESTAD -- Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber, representing the government of Aruba has reached a formal agreement with the University of Central Florida to embark on a strategic master plan for tourism development in Aruba. This is in an effort for Aruba to be able to maintain her competitive position in the Caribbean and to ensure her sustainable growth into the 21st century.

Oduber recognizes UCF as one of the three most prestigious universities in the field of hospitality management in the USA, hence the reason for contracting UCF to work along with the University of Aruba and the Hospitality sector of EPI to prepare and assist the government in the formation of a Tourism Master Plan.

UCF also has much expertise with such projects as they have conducted such projects in various parts of Caribbean in the past. Oduber feels that

the University of Aruba is an excellent partner for such a project with UCF which will contribute to the production of a true Master Plan, a strategic plan for Aruba.

The minister informed that Dr. Tico Croes (a successful Aruban politician turned university professor) together with two other professors and 5 senior class master program students will form the team to assist Aruba with this project.

Oduber asserts that with such a Master Plan we will be able to guarantee that our tourism management can remain consistent regardless of government administration changes - there would be continuity. The minister is convinced that we must be certain as to how many rooms we want, what type of markets to embark on, what kind of visitors we want to attract to Aruba; and what kind of consequences we can envision for our economy and the community in general.

The weekly Bon Bini Festival is tonight!

ORANJESTAD -- The weekly Bon Bini festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminstraat. The festival is for tourists and locals to mix and mingle and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This weeks the festival will feature the traditional Aruban Caha d'Orgel. "Nos Ambiente," musical group;

"Ola Tropical," Dance group: "Sunrise Dancers," solo singer: "Quincy Hasham," and steel band: "New Generation."

MC is Juby Naar

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and handicraft on sale.

Arubus has regularly scheduled bus transport from all hotel areas to Oranjestad's

central terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is US\$2.30.

Come, meet the islands, absorb some local color and culture, and get a taste of our Dushi Aruba.

The festival is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Entrance is 5 Aruban florins or US\$3.



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Minister of Public Health Intent on Improving Health care and Service

Continued from page 1

The formation of an alliance such as in a relationship with the association is an excellent move, according to the minister. The formation of an integrated medical association is in the making and will demonstrate how medical specialists on fixed salaries can contribute to better unity and synchro-



nization.

The association, in the first place, is designed to serve their own interests. There are certain legal questions regarding insurance coverage for incompetent employees which currently is not deductible from income tax for specialists on fixed incomes, but is deductible for those in 'private'

practice. For these types of services there must be clarity and a new understanding.

"Arubaanse Vereniging van Specialisten in Dienstverband" is comprised of Dr. Joel Rajnhert as President, Dr. Eric Arends as treasurer, Dr. Wolfgang Schaier as secretary, and Dr. Jason Petronilia as member of the board.

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At Casa del Mar with Roy Mezas

OPC certification program kicks off for Aruba's marketers



ORANJESTAD – The launch of Aruba's first OPC certification program recently went forward with high attendance as well as high expectations. Much of the timeshare inventory on the island of Aruba is sold through what is known in the industry as OPCs, which stands for Off-Property Contacts, who are mainly stationed at booths in commercial centers. OPCs are usually the first contact for prospective timeshare owners. A large number of these OPCs attended the recent opening session, held at in the Frank Conway Room at Casa del Mar, as a prelude to the actual trainings.

The highly successful, multi-billion dollar timeshare industry of Aruba deserves high-caliber personnel at all levels and it has been a long-time wish of the Aruba Timeshare Association (ATSA) to offer professional courses to these mar-

keters and certify them at the same time, thereby ensuring consistency in presentations, approach, ethics and general information. This objective is also shared by the current Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, His Excellency Otmar Oduber, whose plans include certification of the many individuals who come in contact with visitors, in order that the message, "you are important to us", remains constant and visibly represented.

"The timeshare industry in Aruba is the backbone of the Aruba's tourism industry and as such, the initial contact by the OPC is vital for our continued success," remarks ATSA Treasurer Andy Osbourne, who has been instrumental in the set-up of the certification program together with another well-respected veteran customer trainer, Mr. Roy Mezas.

The program consists of three (3) modules, which takes the marketer through all spectrums of customer service and personal leadership skills, to new techniques in approaching and maintaining a professional attitude. The program will also educate on general information about Aruba. On their own, participating resorts have already agreed upon and have implemented uniformed personnel, nametags and a code of operating ethics which, along with the modules, will lead to certification.

ATSA expresses its gratitude to all timeshare marketing departments as well as La Cabana General Manager Mr. Joe Najjar, who together with Andy Osbourne, were instrumental in the launch of this new, and very important certification program.



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Mamuri's makes a big splash with a grand opening on Super Bowl Sunday



Adriana and loyal friends



Adriana and crew

Adriana Sanchez is a popular figure with transient residents of the "low rise" area; her two restaurants "Pizza Bob's" and "Elliot's" are known for their warm welcome and fine fare. Now she has brought her panache to the site of the former Blue Marlin Restaurant in the Key Largo Casino with an eatery that is all her own, with a moniker after the affectionate nickname her family in

Colombia calls her by, "Mamuri."

Elliot's Sous Chef Tony has taken charge of the kitchen and brought an elegant touch to an international menu that features a few favorites from the popular Italian restaurant adjacent to Costa Linda. Sunday night saw a happy crowd of Packers fans who not only were pleased by the strategic placement of several plasma

screens so they could follow their favorite team to Super Bowl victory, but were highly complementary of the cuisine as well.

Tom and Janice Carrol of Massachusetts had their own private screen to follow the game and report they chose Mamuri's as the place for football fare such as quesadillas and chicken wings because they had already enjoyed a "fabulous breakfast" there that morning. Sherry and Ken Christman of New York did them even one better by topping off their day after sampling both breakfast and lunch



Go Packers

at the new eatery. "It is great to have a place close by," commented the couple, who own timesharing at the Tropicana. "Unfortunately, we didn't like the food from the former owners, but everything we have had at Mamuri's has been terrific. We are so pleased they have a great chef in the kitchen now."

Toni's deft hand not only results in popular fun food, but gourmet delights such as bruchetta and calamari fritti which got a big thumbs up from the Drewes family of Chicago, fans of Adriana's



Chicken Wings

other efforts. "Adriana has a great way with her customers and always makes us feel at home. We have to say what we tried at Mamuri's was excellent."

Adriana greets her guests at her new signature restaurant seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The cozy lounge area has a stage where popular local bands such as "Suave" will be performing most weekends, for drinks, dancing, and provides a perfect venue for catching your favorite championship game.



Sherry and Ken Christman from New York

by Rosalie Klein



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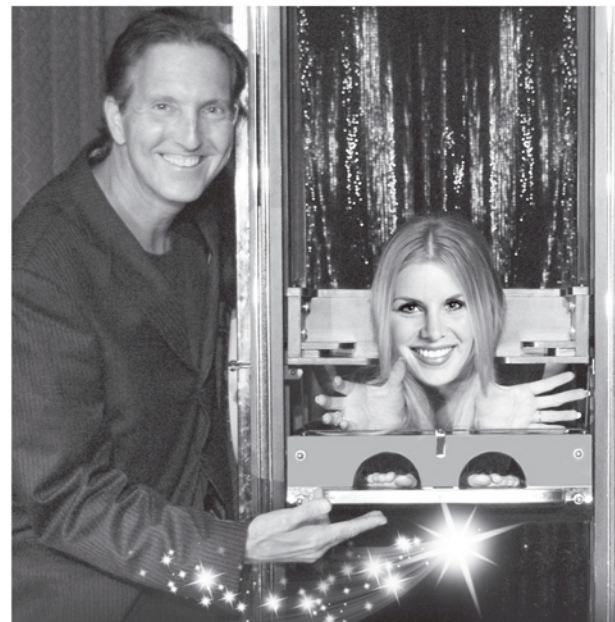
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Sci-Tech

New study raises questions over touted 'adult' stem

PARIS (AFP) - The quest to generate replacement tissue in the lab faced questions recently over mature cells whose DNA is "reprogrammed" so that they grow with youthful vigour into new cells.

Cellular reprogramming last year emerged as the new frontier in the heavily promoted search to grow cells to replenish heart, liver, muscle or other tissue damaged by disease, age or accident.

In 2010, scientists announced they had been able to wipe out the DNA programming of mature (also called adult) cells, yielding versatile stem cells that would be the raw material for organ-specific cells.

That announcement sparked great excitement.

These reverse-engineered cells seemed to look and act as an alternative to stem cells from human embryos -- a miraculously potent but controversial and limited source.

But the new study, published in Nature, suggests the hoped-for substitute, induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), does not become a

completely blank slate, as thought.

Instead, peripheral parts of their code are riddled with indelible marks, "a consistent pattern of reprogramming errors," its authors said.

"Embryonic stem cells are considered the gold standard for pluripotency," said lead researcher Joseph Ecker of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, referring to the ability of stem cells to form different types of cells found in the body.

"So we need to know whether -- and if so, how -- iPSCs differ from embryonic cells."

Moreover, these reprogramming quirks were passed on when iPSCs were then coaxed into a more specialised cell type.

The signatures are not found at the core level of the gene, but in a peripheral zone called the epigenome. This is essentially the switching system that turns genes on or off and determines their level of activity.

In the study, researchers scrutinized well-known epigenetic elements called

methylomes, comparing embryonic stems cells and iPSCs.

At first glance, the patterns were nearly identical.

"But when we started to dig deeper, we discovered significant differences," said Ryan Lister, also at the Salk Institute.

The experiments revealed that the newly-generated

stem cells maintained traces of their origins. An iPSC derived from a fat cell, for example, still showed residual signature patterns in its methylation.

Moreover, regardless of their origins, the iPSCs all showed that a region of DNA called telomeres and centromeres proved resistant to reprogramming.

Telomeres are protective "caps" on the end of chromosomes, and play a key role in ageing and longevity. Centromeres, found near the axis of a chromosome, are involved in cell division.

The new work added to previous research that shows iPSCs are indeed different from embryonic stem cells.



Indian Scientists work at the Tsunami Early Warning Centre of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in Hyderabad on February 4, 2011. INCOIS has developed a state-of-art-system of early warning of tsunami and storm surges, Potential Fishing Zone advisories, Ocean State Forecast and data products for the countries of the region. AFP PHOTO



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Tea tree oil should not be used orally; there are reports of toxicity after consuming tea tree oil by mouth. When applied to the skin, tea tree oil is reported to be mildly irritating and has been associated with the development of allergic contact dermatitis, which may limit its potential as a topical agent for some patients.

Cultural shift behind Italian women's thinning



ROME (AFP) – Gone are the "Big Mamma" stereotypes and the full figures of yesteryear -- a new study has found Italian women are the only ones getting thinner despite an obesity epidemic in the Western world.

And experts told AFP it's all thanks to major cultural changes in Italy, a healthy Mediterranean diet and simply paying more attention to waistlines.

The ideal of beauty is "very different from the post-war period if you look at photos of actresses from the 1950s" like Sofia Loren or Gina Lollobrigida, said Maria Rosaria D'Isanto, a nutritional expert in

Treviso in northern Italy.

A global study published in British medical journal *The Lancet* backs her up, finding that the Body Mass Index (BMI) for Italian women has fallen from 25.2 in 1980 to 24.9 in 1990 and 24.8 in 2008, bucking the trend seen elsewhere.

D'Isanto said Italian women are just more informed about weight issues.

"The level of education has risen and with that so has the consciousness of the correlation between excessive weight and health. We have a new generation that is not the 'fat is beautiful' one," she said.

Another important factor was "the re-evaluation during the 1980s of the Mediterranean diet" based on olive oil and rich in fibres, she added.

In France "the cuisine is rich in fats with cheese or butter but in Italy it's olive oil. We are more conscious of what constitutes fat," she said.

Public health campaigns in schools over the past 30 years have given a helping hand and Italian women are now doing more exercise than ever before.

And last but not least parents are becoming "very careful about food" compared to grandparents, who think of "plentiful eating as a sign of wealth."

Pietro Migliaccio, head of the Italian Society of Food Sciences, says he now can't tell the difference between a 30-year-old and a 45-year-old or between a 40-year-old and a 65-year-old in the streets of Rome or Milan.

"If you look at Scandinavian, German or Ukrainian women, they're magnificent when they're 18-20 years old but after that they let themselves go and by the time they're 35 they're already flabby," Migliaccio said.

"It's not just that they're going to the hairdresser more. Italian women are among the most elegant in Europe and they care more about their waistlines than other women," he said -- "even when they are overweight or obese."

Last but not least, Migliaccio said the BMI is going down because Italians as a whole are getting taller "and can now have basketball or volleyball teams"



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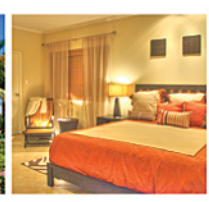
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Super Bowl Sunday at Alhambra is an annual tradition!



Super Green Bay fans Jim and Holly Scheerer

Alhambra Casino has a dedicated following every year for Super Bowl Sunday, and this year Manager Oscar and veteran wait staffer Gerardo welcomed several old friends to catch the game on their giant screens while chowing down on piles of chicken wings washed down with



Superbowl regulars David, Tana and Rosanne Ulmschneider with Oscar and the Cleo Crew

buckets of beer.

Pittsburgh fans were keeping a low profile in a room dominated by Green Bay fanatics; even though things got close during the second half the Steelers could never quite catch up.

Jim Scheerer of Burlington, Wisconsin was sporting a Packers Super Bowl Champions cap he had in storage since 1997 when they won the epic 31st Super Bowl, and he donned it with pride at half time, sure his team was going

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"My boys are back!" he proclaimed as Green Bay chalked up their 4th Super Bowl Victory. "Happy days are here again!"

by Rosalie Klein

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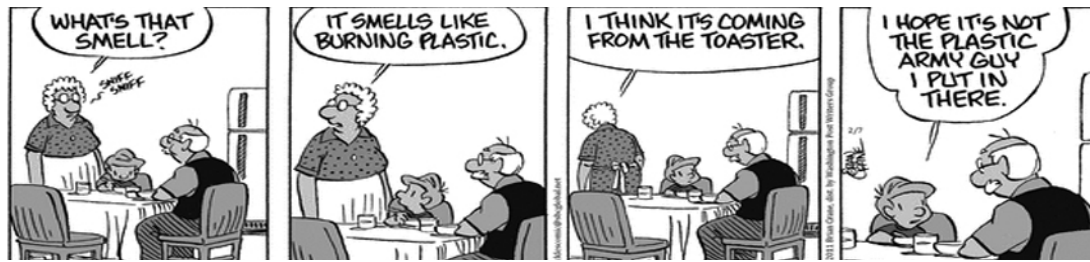
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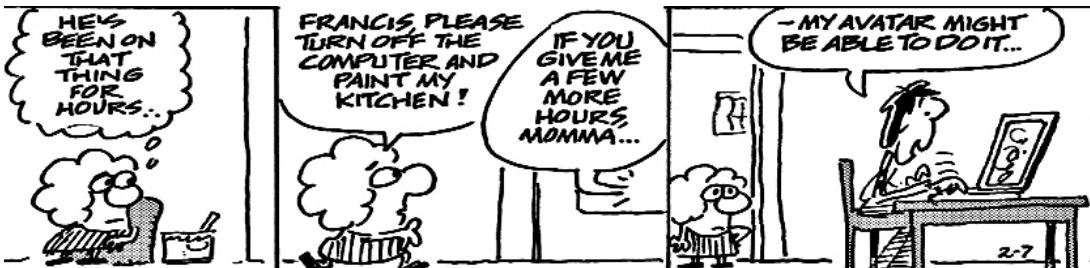
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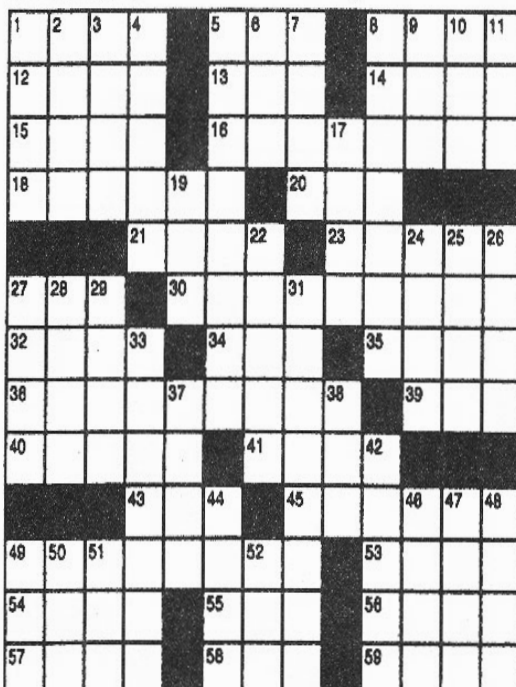
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ACROSS

1. Striped food fish
5. Lard
8. Moose
12. Colleague
13. Eggs
14. Opera melody
15. Bellow
16. In a distant manner
18. Coy



20. Place
21. Agreement
23. Locales
27. Family wagon
30. Vest
32. Spring flower
34. Tree juice
35. Other
36. Peculiar
39. Morning moisture
40. In what place?
41. By and by
43. Tablet
45. Suffocate
49. Permissive
53. Well-behaved
54. Spirit
55. Foot digit
56. Suspended
57. Following
58. Blunder
59. Playing card

DOWN

1. Poet
2. Medicinal plant
3. Shut angrily
4. Pancake topper
5. Predict
6. Roman greeting
7. Pack down
8. Trellis
9. Mineral
10. Lubricate
11. Remunerate
17. Evict
19. Unrefined
22. Coronet
24. Related
25. Comfort
26. Ragout
27. Panorama
28. Curved doorway
29. Pleasant
31. Old maid
33. Snake
37. Close
38. Camp bed
42. Evening
44. Appointment
46. Number of bridge suits
47. Solitary
48. Nervous
49. Decade
50. Bullring cheer
51. Careless
52. Neither's partner

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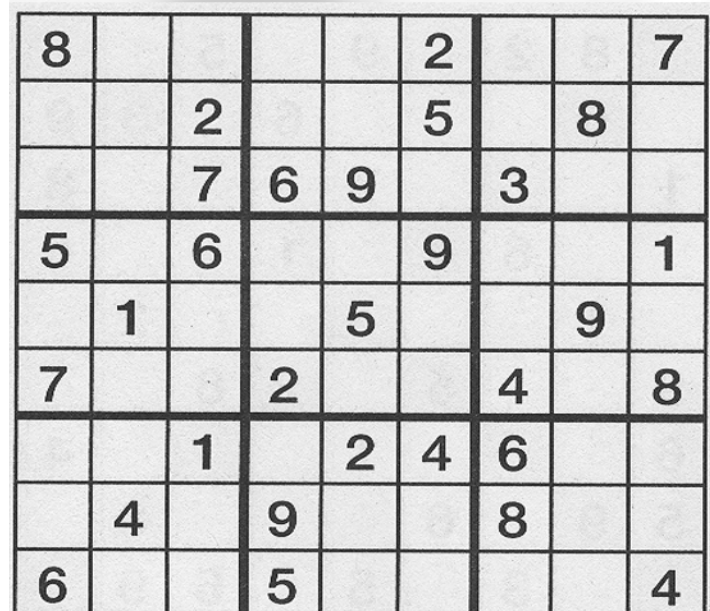
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BRIEFS:

British offshore rig owner Ensco to buy rival Pride:

NEW YORK (AFP) – British offshore rig operator Ensco said it will buy US rival Pride International for about \$7.3 billion in a deal creating the world's second-largest offshore driller. With an estimated value of about \$16 billion, the new entity will have 74 rigs spanning all of the strategic, high-growth markets around the globe, the two firms said.

The deal was unanimously approved by each company's board of directors. The transaction was expected to close as soon as the second quarter of 2011, subject to shareholder approval.

=====

US 'not clear' on French G20 food proposal:

SAO PAULO (AFP) – US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said it was not clear what France was proposing within the G20 to stamp out food price volatility, and implied market forces should be left to work unhindered.

France, the current chair of the G20 group of major developed and developing nations, has vowed to bring stability to food commodity prices, possibly by creating a new mechanism in the World Trade Organization.

The FAO and another UN agency, the World Food Program, suggested that the problem contributed to protests that led to the fall of the Tunisian government last month.

=====

Deutsche Bank boss in row over 'pretty women' jibe:

FRANKFURT (AFP) – The head of Germany's largest bank, Deutsche Bank, has drawn ire by saying that appointing more women to its executive board would make it "prettier and more colourful," a press report said.

Amid a debate on whether Germany should set quotas for women on the boards of major groups, Josef Ackermann acknowledged there were none on the bank's executive committee, a subordinate body to the board of directors.

Ilse Aigner, the conservative German minister for agriculture and consumer affairs, shot back in the newspaper, saying: "Those who like pretty and colourful things should go take a walk in a field of flowers or a museum."

=====

Suzuki net profit nearly triples in 9 mths to Dec

TOKYO (AFP) – Japanese automaker Suzuki Motor said its net profit nearly tripled in the April-December period as healthy sales in Asia offset the strength of the yen.

Operating profit nearly doubled, rising 86 percent to 92.46 billion yen.

However, for the fiscal year ending March, Suzuki kept its net profit forecast at 35 billion yen and its operating profit forecast at 100 billion yen on sales of 2.5 trillion yen.

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Brent oil price climbs back above \$100



LONDON (AFP) – Oil prices rebounded to briefly stand back above \$100 amid lingering concerns over the impact of the political uncertainty in Egypt.

This week in London and after breaching \$100 a barrel, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in March was at \$99.95, up 12 cents compared with week-end's close.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for March, dropped 63 cents to \$88.40 a barrel.

The price of New York

crude lags far behind Brent owing to large supplies of oil remaining at the main US transit point of Cushing, Oklahoma, according to analysts.

Brent last week jumped above the key \$100 mark for the first time in more than two years -- and went on to cross \$103 as sentiment was hit by concerns over the impact of the unrest in Egypt on global energy supplies.

But the market ran out of steam as traders took profits on weak jobless data in the United States, the world's biggest crude consuming nation.

"The price of Brent has climbed above the \$100 mark again ... after dipping below this mark ... after weaker-than-expected US labour market data," said Commerzbank commodities analyst Carsten Fritsch.

"On the back of continued protests in the Middle East, oil prices remain well protected on the downside," Fritsch said.

"The unrest in Egypt has also had an impact on the be-

haviour of speculative financial investors, who are increasingly betting on rising oil prices again amid the uncertainty about possible effects on oil supply."

Egypt's embattled President Hosni Mubarak tried to buy himself some time in the face of defiant street protests Monday, vowing to boost public sector pay packets by 15 percent.

The 82-year-old strongman met his new-look cabinet for the first time as the regime battled to get the economy moving again despite ongoing demonstrations by pro-democracy activists who have occupied a Cairo square.

While Egypt is not a major crude producer, the country is home to the Suez Canal, which carries about 2.4 million barrels daily, roughly equal to Iraq's output.

On the back of Egypt concerns, Brent crude spiked to \$103.37 last week-end -- reaching the highest level since September 26, 2008.

VW to create 40,000 jobs by 2018 says report

BERLIN (AFP) – Germany's Volkswagen, Europe's biggest automaker, plans to boost its workforce from 250,000 to 290,000 by 2018, with most of the new jobs to be created in China, the German auto weekly Woche reported.

Citing internal and confidential documents, the weekly said that "the number of VW employees will rise from 250,000 to 290,000 by 2018," including 35,000 new posts in China.

Most of the new jobs -- 21,000 posts -- will be created in the production sector, including 400 for managers and 5,000 for engineers.

Some 4,700 new jobs will open up in the commercial and customer service divisions.

The new posts will come on top of those to be created to replace the 60,000 VW employees due to retire by 2018, Woche said.

Last month, a report said VW was considering launching a new car brand specifically designed for the booming Chinese market.



"The Chinese government has been promoting Chinese brands for some time now. In this context, joint ventures with foreign companies -- such as FAW Volkswagen or

SAIC Volkswagen for us -- are encouraged to make a local marque," an official with unit Volkswagen China said in a Handelsblatt report.

VW is now in talks with its Chinese partners, looking at the market for models below 8,000 euros (11,000 dollars), the report said, adding that the company's supervisory board was expected to approve the project.

VW sales in China jumped nearly 36 percent over a one-year period.

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ENDS	JOHNS	OTTO
EGO	RANTS	SPEAR
REF	ADAH	TERRY
	MATURE	SERF
PLUGS	WON	ARAB
ROSE	OPINE	TORE
ERIN	DANCE	ENID
SECT	ADDER	STAS

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Have you had your breakfast today? The Old Fisherman offers breakfast with an Aruban twist



Linda and Ramon Pimienta with their son Raymond, at right

When Linda and Ramon Pimienta started their small business at the old wharf down town, little did they know that they had a goldmine when it comes to the perfect blend of international and local cuisine. Nowadays, they are located right behind the Royal Plaza Mall where they serve up a storm to visitors and locals alike. What is their secret? Offering high quality dishes at super prizes that fit anyone's budget.

have been with the company for ten years are ready to serve you with a smile.

Besides serving traditional breakfast dishes such as eggs sunny side up with ham and cheese, scrambled or plain they also serve pastechi horna (a small pie pocket with different fillings), crêpes, sweet crêpes and bagels with cream cheese, smoked salmon or boiled eggs.

If you want to really experience the Aruban twist you might want to try something



For ten years The Old Fisherman has been serving local cuisine with an international twist for lunch and dinner and they have managed to stay on top by using high quality fresh ingredients. From their fish cakes with "funchi" (polenta) and "pan

from the local breakfast menu served on pan grandi (rama) or a baguette. You can try the delicious kerrie-kerrie (a typical Aruban flaked fish), conch, fish egg, shrimp, fish fillet, fish cake and the chicken soup or you can have fruit salad and yoghurt.



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Egypt-born writer Chedid 'dies in Paris'



Egyptian-born poet and novelist Andree Chedid

PARIS, France (AFP) – The Egyptian-born poet and novelist Andree Chedid, the grandmother of French rock singer Matthieu Chedid, died in Paris on Sunday aged 90, her publisher Flammarion said.

She was born into a

Lebanese Christian family in Cairo in 1920 and was educated in Egypt and Paris before taking a degree in journalism at the American University in Cairo.

Chedid moved to Paris in 1946 and became a French citizen. Her first book was written in English but she later switched to French to pen her novels, whose stories move between France and the Middle East.

She published 22 volumes of poetry, 16 novels, seven plays and numerous short stories, according to the website of the International PEN writers' organisation.

Two of her novels were made into award-winning films: "Le sixieme jour" in 1986 by Youssef Chahine, and "L'autre" by Bernard Giraud in 1991.

Italian museum chief asks Merkel for asylum

CASORIA, Italy (AFP) – An Italian museum director told AFP he is asking for asylum in Germany, saying he is fed up with mafia threats and a government that is failing to protect Italy's rich cultural heritage.

"I wrote a letter to German Chancellor Angela Merkel," said Antonio Manfredi, director of the Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) in Casoria, an impoverished and crime-heavy town close to Naples in southern Italy.

"I'm serious. It's not some kind of performance art. If she gives me asylum, I'm going to pack up my bags and move to Germany with my staff and the museum's entire collection of 1,000 works," said Manfredi, who is also a sculptor.

"Germany has been one of the few countries that hasn't cut its culture budget. It gives a lot of money to research unlike here," he said.

To make his point, he has even planted a German flag outside the museum.



A native of Casoria, Manfredi returned to his hometown after a career abroad including in China and the United States and set up the museum in 2005.

"I wanted to start something in this dead town," he said.

But as soon as he started doing exhibitions on the local Camorra crime syndicate and on the problems of integration of immigrants, Manfredi said he has received death threats and his museum has been vandalised.

"There are dark forces at

work here that want things to remain static. It's not necessarily a mafia guy turning up with a gun, it's more subtle than that but if you're from around here you get the message loud and clear," he said.

Manfredi said that apart from some initial start-up money he has also received no funds from the state and has given up hope of getting any after some recent highly-publicised accidents at the ancient site of Pompeii.

Most of the museum's funds are his own money and from private sponsors, while artists who come and visit sometimes donate their works.

"If a government allows Pompeii to fall then what hope does my museum have... There's an enormous problem with culture in Italy," Manfredi said.

Italy's government has slashed culture budgets in recent months, provoking a wave of protests and strikes and forcing museums to the brink of bankruptcy.

Anthem, seat blunders mar Super Bowl scene

DALLAS, Texas (AFP) – Glitz and glitches as well as gridiron grit marked Super Bowl Sunday at Cowboys Stadium.

Even before Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger had thrown two first-half interceptions, the miscues were mounting up.

Christina Aguilera, attempting a bravura performance of the "Star Spangled Banner" unfortunately muffed a line of the national anthem prior to kickoff, apparently losing her place and replacing the line "O'er the

ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming" with a variation on an earlier line.

"I can only hope that everyone could feel my love for this country and that the true spirit of its anthem still came through," Aguilera said in a statement.

While the singer's goof on the Super stage may have raised eyebrows, a problem with temporary seats at the billion-dollar Cowboys Stadium provoked real anger as hundreds of ticket holders were left without their expected places in the stands.

The NFL said 850 ticketed fans for its championship game between the Steelers and Green Bay Packers were put in "similar or better seats."

For about 400 others, the NFL first offered to let the fans watch the game in the stadium's standing-room plazas.

Shortly after kickoff, NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said they had been accommodated in the field-level club behind the Steelers bench, where they could watch the game on monitors.

The fans were also promised a refund equal to triple the face value of their 800-dollar tickets.

The confusion followed a week in which back-to-back winter storms had disrupted some of the usual Super Bowl festivities, and ice tumbling from the roof of the stadium on Friday injured half a dozen people.

Sri Lanka bans laundry near WCup venue



COLOMBO (AFP) –

Residents and shop owners around the R. Premadasa Stadium, which will host seven matches, were issued the orders by Colombo city authorities this week, the island's Sunday Times newspaper said.

"These include abstaining from hanging out clothes for

drying in public view, putting out garbage on the roadsides and engaging in street games such as hopscotch and cricket matches," the paper said.

The 35,000-seater Premadasa stadium, which will be the venue for three Sri Lanka games and one semi-final, is surrounded by low-income housing schemes.

Sri Lanka has spent \$8 million renovating the ground and has also built two new stadiums in the south and centre of the island for the World Cup.

The country, which emerged from decades of ethnic war in 2009 with the defeat of the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels, is keen to promote a clean and efficient image during the tournament.

"Our country will get a lot of exposure from this event. So we have told the people to take special care during this time to keep their surroundings neat," Colombo special commissioner Omar Kamil told the Sunday Times.

The World Cup, hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, starts on February 19 and ends on April 2.

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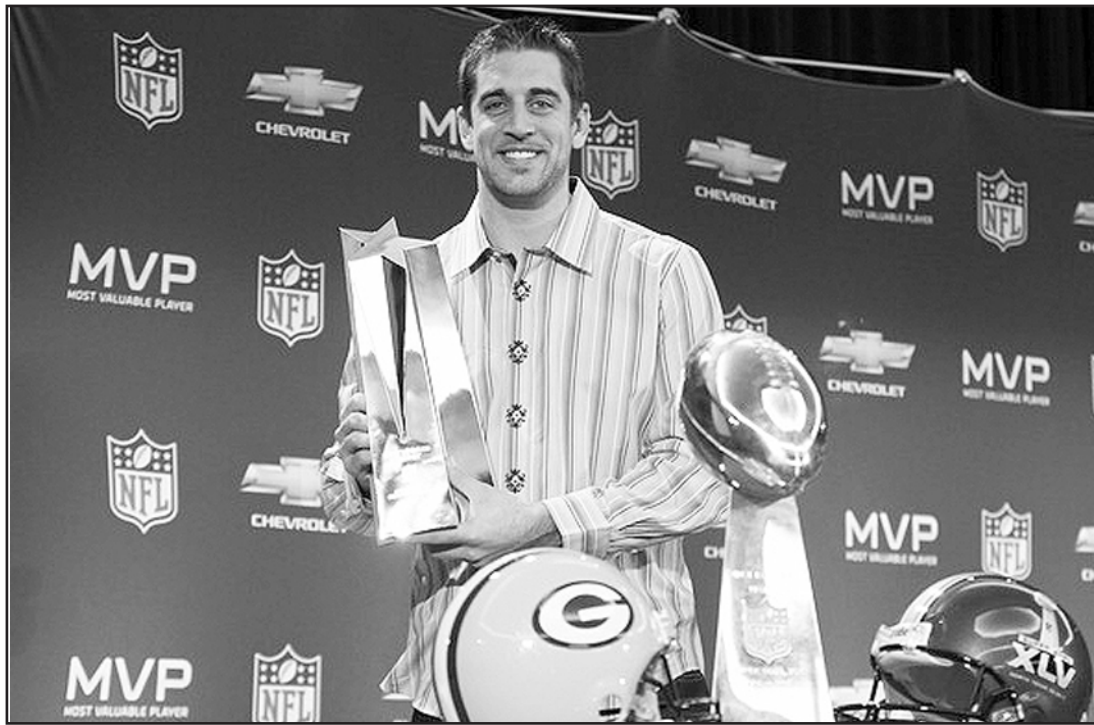
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Rodgers named Super Bowl MVP in first try



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers poses with the MVP trophy after speaking to the media during a press conference at Super Bowl XLV Media Center.

DALLAS (AFP) - Rodgers not only completed 24-of-39 passes for 304 yards and three touchdowns but he outduelled his Pittsburgh rival Ben Roethlisberger who was considered the better of the two heading into the game as Roethlisberger already had two Super Bowl rings.

"He played great," said Packers coach Mike McCarthy. "We put everything on his shoulders. He did a lot at the line of scrimmage for us against a great defence. He did a hell of a job."

Even before Sunday's game Rodgers' superb play had made Brett Favre a fading memory in Green Bay but Sunday's MVP award validated that notion.

"I felt in a better rhythm," said Rodgers who talked to several Super Bowl winning players to get a feel for what to expect in Sunday's game. "Fun night."

But Rodgers, who once took a summer job as a window washer during his college days, refused to take sole credit for the Packers' first

Super Bowl championship in 14 years. He lauded his teammates and McCarthy.

"The defence was incredible tonight. Mike had a great flow to the game. Guys made plays tonight. Unbelievable," said Rodgers whose father played semi-pro football as an offensive guard.

Said Pittsburgh head coach Mike Tomlin, "We knew he would throw the football quite a bit and he did. He didn't fold under pressure. He showed his mettle. I tip my hat to him."

Klitschko wants title clash against Haye

LONDON (AFP) - Vladimir Klitschko wants Britain's David Haye to face him in a potential heavyweight unification bout on July 2 - and he doesn't care if the fight is in the UK.

The Ukrainian, based in Germany, will defend his International Boxing Federation (IBF) and World Boxing Organisation (WBO) titles against Britain's Dereck Chisora in a rescheduled clash in April.

That means Haye, the World Boxing Association (WBA) champion, must first face mandatory title challenger Ruslan Chagaev of Uzbekistan, before any fight with Klitschko can take place.

But it is the fight between Klitschko and Haye which boxing fans are desperate to see and which is widely regarded as essential if a diminished division is to restore its tarnished reputation.

Both men have insisted re-

peatedly they do want to fight each other but, for various contractual reasons, the bout has still to happen.

But Klitschko told BBC Sport on Monday: "I think after talking so much nonsense (Haye) has to show up in the ring."

"He has been trying to be smart but eventually he put himself in a corner. He's talking about legacy - I don't see the legacy with him, to be honest with you."

"I think that it's not only my opinion but the opinion of a lot of fans."

"I'm right here and I'm confirming that July 2, as I've said before, that's the date for the fight."

"Either David Haye takes it or he just leaves the whole thing there."

"We were agreed on the money, so that we split everything 50-50 and of course there is a lot of money to make, but money is not the issue right now. "As I said, I

can confirm the date - July 2 - and the answer from David Haye was 'I don't want you to fight before' and however. The date is confirmed. Germany or the UK? It doesn't matter."

Haye, who has said he will retire when he turns 31 in October, last month reiterated his determination to box Klitschko, whose brother Vitali owns the WBC belt, which along with the WBA title are the two most respected.

"Fight fans just want to see the best against the best - if only it was that simple," Haye, a former cruiserweight, said.

"Very rarely in boxing do you get a situation where you have all the pieces of the puzzle, all the politics have been smoothed over."

"Then all of sudden he announces he is fighting Chisora, knowing I have to then fight Chagaev."

"To then fight me after is impossible - it is a shame he has now shown his true colours."



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Website on defensive over Tibet ad

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Internet start-up Groupon was on the defensive Monday as it faced outrage for running a Super Bowl advertisement that highlighted Tibet's woes to promote the online bargain site.

The commercial during Sunday evening's game, the most-watched time of the year on US television, opens with mountain scenes set to a melancholy flute and the words, "The people of Tibet are in trouble. Their culture is in jeopardy."

Actor Timothy Hutton then quips, "But they still whip up an amazing fish curry," and ex-

Viva Espana at Laureus awards

ABU DHAB (AFP) - Spain had double reason to celebrate at the prestigious Laureus awards here on Monday as world tennis number one Rafael Nadal was voted sportsman of the year and the Spanish football team's World Cup win netted them the team of the year.

American ski superstar Lindsey Vonn got a gentle boost ahead of this week's world alpine skiing championships by winning the sportswoman of the year title.

German golfer Martin Kaymer's fabulous year, which included his first major - the US PGA Championship, saw him win the World Breakthrough of the Year Award.

plains how he used Groupon for a discount at a Tibetan restaurant in Chicago.

The advertisement set off furious messages on Twitter.

Musician Paco Mahone of Pittsburgh tweeted: "Glad I never heard of Groupon and glad I will never use them after that horrible Super Bowl commercial."

An unscientific poll on The Huffington Post, a left-leaning news site, found that some 45 percent of viewers found the advertisement "completely inappropriate" and many more were somewhat taken aback.

Rohit Bhargava, who blogs about marketing, tweeted: "Groupon seems to have achieved the unique feat of paying \$3 (million) to lose customers who previously loved them."

Groupon, a Chicago-based company that has grown rapidly since its inception in 2008, acknowledged a "peculiar taste in humor" but said it in fact supported Tibetan causes.

Groupon said it was matching donations of up to \$100,000 to three charities including the Tibet Fund, which supports jobs for Tibetan refugees.

Explaining the joke, the company said that its founders started in the world of philanthropy but have "ended up selling coupons."

"We loved the idea of poking fun at ourselves by talking about discounts as a noble cause," the company said in a blog post.



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Lombardi Trophy returning to its namesakes' home

DALLAS (AFP) - The Super Bowl champions Green Bay Packers are taking the Vince Lombardi Trophy home for the first time in 14 years.

And the Packers 31-25 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl 45 on Sunday would certainly have made the award's namesake and iconic former Green Bay coach proud.

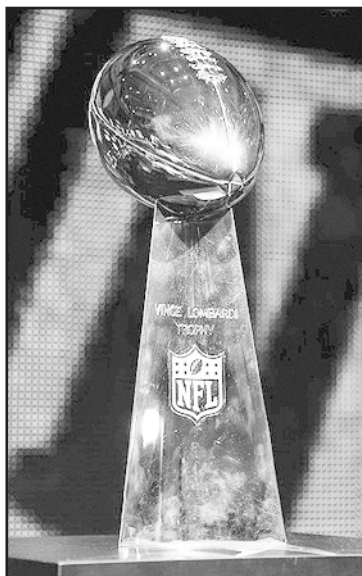
"Coach Lombardi's trophy," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said, "is finally going back home."

Vince Lombardi built championship franchises in Green Bay during the 1960s with teams loaded with talent.

The 2011 NFL champions are a throwback to that era and they showed it Sunday by fending off key injuries throughout the game to come out on top in front of one of the largest crowds in league history.

When veteran receiver Donald Driver went down with an ankle injury and could not return, Jordy Nelson stepped in, finishing with nine catches for 140 yards and one touchdown.

"He's a playmaker,"



Driver said of Nelson. "When you get opportunities you have to make the most of them."

The Packers also lost star corner back Charles Woodson with a collarbone injury but were able to fight through it.

"This is a great group of men we have put together here," said Super Bowl MVP Aaron Rodgers.

But this was nothing new for Green Bay which has been rotating players in and out of the lineup all season.

The Packers' starters missed a NFL-high 91 games to injuries this year.

"We've been a team that has overcome adversity all year," receiver Greg Jennings said.

"Now our captain goes down. It was emotional in the locker room. Our No. 1 receiver goes down and more emotions are flying in the locker room but we find a way to bottle it up and exert it on the field."

This is the first Super Bowl win for Green Bay since Super Bowl 32 when they beat the New England Patriots 35-21.

The Packers are one of the league's most historic franchises and their 13 league championships is evidence of that.

The team was founded in 1919 and just happens to be the only community-owned club in the NFL.

Loyalty among their fans runs deep. Hundreds showed up outside Cowboys Stadium seven hours before Sunday's contest, minus tickets, but still wanting to soak up the atmosphere and take a few photos.

Green Bay's population is 101,025, less than the 103,219 fans inside the stadium on Sunday.

The blue-collar town includes a port on Green Bay and industries such as several meatpacking and paper plants.

Green Bay's gridiron team has been able to thrive in a small market because of the NFL's generous revenue-sharing programme.

In sports like the National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball franchises in large cities are able to outspend the small-market teams.

The New York Yankees baseball team have one of the highest payrolls in North American sports at 193.8 million dollars.

The Packers players will now take the Lombardi Trophy home to Green Bay but just how long they will be able to enjoy the fruits of winning is anyone's guess.

The current collective-bargaining agreement between the league and the players expires at midnight on March 3.

With the sides far apart on several issues, a lockout of the players by the owners looms if they cannot hammer out a new deal before the deadline.

Avalanche ink former MVP Forsberg

DENVER, Colorado (AFP) - Swedish star Peter Forsberg, a former NHL Most Valuable Player pursuing a comeback after three years out of the league, inked a deal with Colorado on Sunday.

"Peter believes he can compete at the NHL level based on how his workouts went," Avalanche general manager Greg Sherman said. "He will provide additional leadership to our club and he will have an impact with this young team."

The Avalanche did not release the terms of the contract.

Forsberg, who began his

comeback bid last month when he began practising with the team he sparked to two Stanley Cup titles, said he made his final decision before practice on Sunday.

Forsberg said he didn't expect to play on Monday against Phoenix, and isn't sure when he'll play in an NHL contest.

"There are a few issues that have to be straightened out first," he said. "I'd like to play, but I'm not sure how it's going to go. I'm here, I came here to try and it's going pretty good. I'd like to start playing and see if I'm good enough."

Forsberg, 37, began train-

ing with Colorado a fortnight ago. He wanted to find out if his chronically injured right foot could handle the rigours of the NHL.

He said he had to get into game shape before he could make a decision.

"The first couple of practices were tough. Guys were flying around you and I felt like I was 47 instead of 37," he said.

Forsberg was a star in his prime, helping the Avalanche win Stanley Cup titles in 1996 and 2001. He won the Hart Trophy as the league MVP in 2003 and the Avalanche said they are happy to have him back.



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Blatter says 2022 will still be summer World Cup

LONDON (AFP) - FIFA president Sepp Blatter added to the confusion surrounding the timing of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar by saying Monday he still expected it to take place in the northern hemisphere summer -- having last month predicted it would be staged in winter.

The tournament traditionally takes place in June and July but with temperatures in Qatar rising to 40 degrees Celsius in those months many have questioned whether it would be safe for the world's top footballers to play in such searing heat.

And that led to suggestions, some from Blatter, that the first World Cup to be staged in the Middle East could take place in the European winter for all that it might interfere with the continent's club seasons.

However, in an interview with the BBC on Monday, Blatter said: "I think for the time being the matter is on ice. Everything is settled for summer."

But the Swiss head of football's world governing body said at the Asia Cup in Doha last month: "I expect it

(the 2022 World Cup) to be in the winter because when you play football you must protect the main people, the players."

Nevertheless he told the BBC he had no preference and also disclaimed responsibility for a winter World Cup, saying the idea had been originated by the likes of Germany great Franz Beckenbauer and former France international turned UEFA president Michel Platini.

"Who said first that we should play in winter? It was Franz Beckenbauer, second Michel Platini and the world footballers' union (Fifpro)."

"I am not in favour of one or the other. What I did say, winter is not only January or February. I think for the time being the matter is on ice."

Blatter said a Qatar delegation had visited FIFA's headquarters in Zurich and indicated the World Cup would be played in its customary slot, with all matches taking place in the Gulf state alone following reports some fixtures could be 'exported' to neighbouring countries.

Vonn shocked by 'dangerous' course

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN (AFP) - On the eve of the Alpine World Ski Championships, defending champion Lindsey Vonn said she was shocked at piste conditions ahead of Tuesday's opening race and has dubbed the Kandahar course 'dangerous'.

Vonn spoke out after training for the super-G event which opens the fortnight-long championships that run until February 20 as she looks to defend her super-G title and throw down a rival against rival Maria Riesch.

"I think the course is too dangerous for women," said

the reigning world downhill and super-G champion.

"It is much too icy, I am shocked."

Still nursing the after-effects of a heavy crash while training last Wednesday, Vonn has said she will delay deciding whether to race in the super-G until Tuesday morning.

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